

SENATE BILL 1320

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68  
and Title 71, relative to dental services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

71-5-160.

(a) To the extent funds are specifically appropriated by the general  
appropriations act including but not limited to any other funds that may be available from  
the bureau of TennCare reserve funds, the department of health is authorized to  
facilitate the augmentation of any program for the provision of adult emergency dental  
services for indigent adults.

(b) Such a program shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Improvement and expansion of county health department adult dental  
emergency services;

(2) Improvement and expansion of metropolitan health department adult  
dental emergency services;

(3) Support for faith based dental emergency services;

(4) Creation of a state wide network of private dentists who will accept  
discounted fees to provide services to indigent adults requiring emergency  
services; and

(5) Creation and maintenance of a twenty four (24) hour hotline for coordination of referrals from health departments or hospital emergency departments to participating private dentists.

(c) Nothing established or supported by this section shall in any way be construed or determined to be an entitlement by any individual or entity to any medical or dental services, or if such assistance or services are provided to any continuing services by the state or any other entity or person.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.